

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, claim 25 is objected to based on the reasons set forth at the top of page 2 of the Office Action. Applicants amend claim 25 as indicated herein. Applicants believe that the objection to claim 25 should be withdrawn.

Applicants cancel claim 21, as indicated herein, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-29 are all the claims pending in the present application. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-15 and 20-24 are now allowed. Also, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 21 and 25 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 16-19 and 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite, however these claims would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

§112, first paragraph, Rejections - Claims 25-29

With respect to claims 25-29, the Examiner alleges that the original disclosure does not describe nor enable the feature that the infiltrated metal or alloy has a density distribution, as described in claim 25.

Claim 25 is amended, as indicated herein, for clarification purposes only. Applicants submit that claim 25 satisfies 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicants submit that support for the clarifying amendment to claim 25 can be found on page 28, lines 1-14 of the originally filed specification. Applicants submit that the clarifying feature of claim 25 should not require further search and/or consideration as this feature is recited in other claims and has already been considered by the Examiner.

§112, second paragraph, Rejections - Claims 16-19 and 25-29

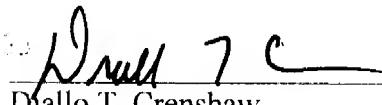
With respect to independent claim 16, Applicants believe that claim 16 satisfies 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 17-19 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies from independent claim 16.

With respect to independent claim 25, and claims 26-29 which depend therefrom, Applicants believe that claims 25 and 26-29 satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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